

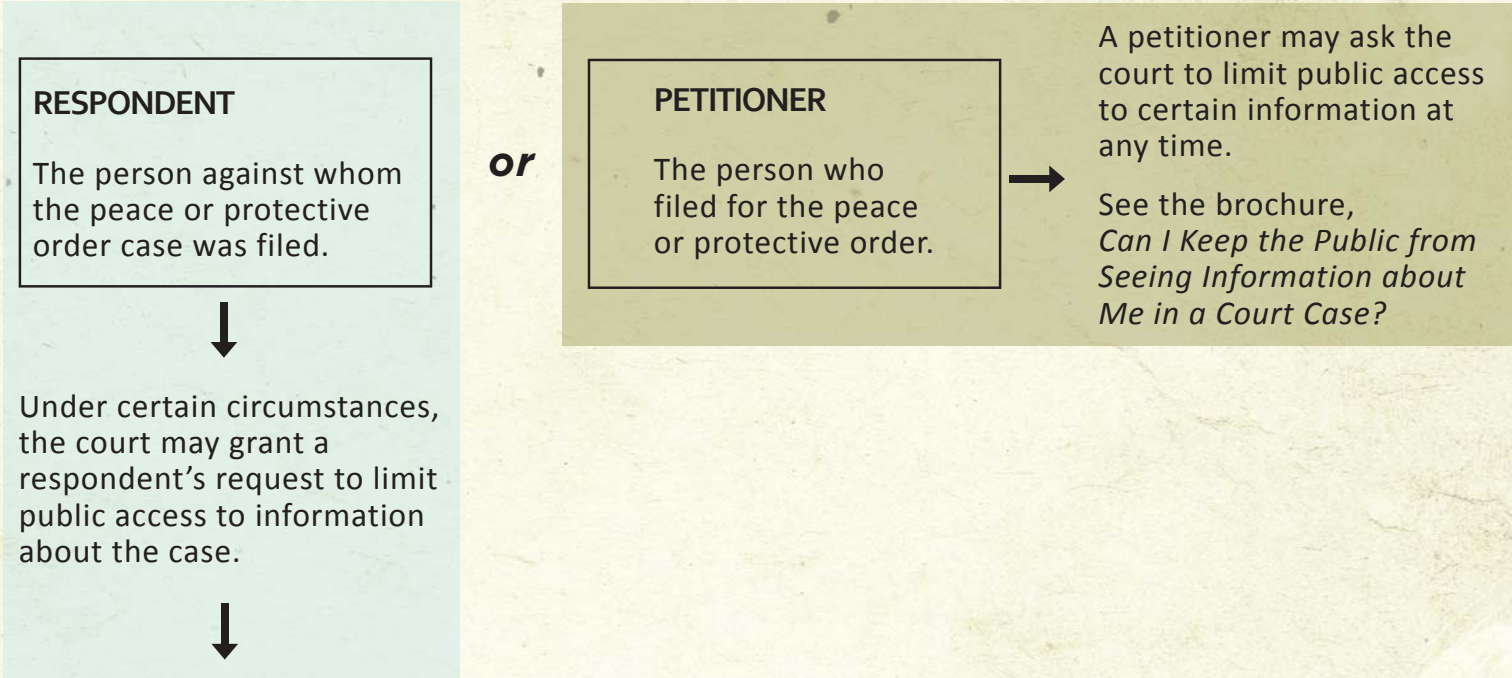
Just as courtrooms are open to the public, the public has a right to find out information about court cases. However, in some situations, you can request that the public not see information about a peace or protective order filed against you.

Peace and protective orders are civil orders that a judge issues to order one person not to act in certain ways toward someone else.

The petitioner files the peace or protective order case against the respondent.

This brochure is for respondents.

Who am I in this case?



Can I request that the court limit public access to the case record?

Yes, if all four (4) of these statements apply to you (the respondent):

The peace or protective order against you was **denied or dismissed**.

+

No other final peace or protective order has been **previously issued** against you in a case involving this petitioner.

+

There is no other peace or protective order case **pending** between you and this petitioner.

+

There is no **criminal charge** pending against you relating to this petitioner.

for Respondents

Can I keep the public from seeing information about me in a peace or protective order case?

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When can I ask that the court limit public access to the case record?

When three (3) years have passed from the time the court denied or dismissed the peace or protective order

or

Sooner than three (3) years if you also file a General Waiver and Release (form CC-DC 77). Consider speaking to a lawyer before waiving any legal rights you may have.

How do I ask the court to limit public access to the case record?

Follow these steps:

1. **Complete the correct form.** Attach the General Waiver and Release (form CC-DC 77) if necessary.
 - For a **peace order** case — use form CC-DC PO-16 to ask the court to limit public access to a record.
 - For a **protective order** case — use form CC-DC DV-21 to ask the court to limit public access to a record.
2. **File the form** (and the waiver/release, if necessary) by mail or in person with the District or Circuit Court that heard your protective or peace order case.
3. **Send a copy** of the form and everything you filed with the court to the petitioner and any other parties involved in the case. If the Petitioner's address is confidential, file a "Motion for Appropriate Relief" asking the court to send your request to the Petitioner.
 - For a protective order case, use form CC DC/DV 25.
 - For a peace order case, use form CC DC/PO 19.
4. The court will hold a **hearing** and will consider any objection the petitioner may have. If the court decides the petitioner's objection is valid, it may not limit public access to the case record.
5. If the court decides you are legally eligible, the court will limit public access to the information about you in this civil case.

If the court does not limit public access to the case record, you may file an appeal.

If you were a defendant in a **criminal case** about this same incident, see the brochure *Expungement of Criminal Records*. Through expungement, you may be able to limit further what the public can see about you in court records.

For more information

To find out more, see MD. CODE, COURTS & JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS § 3-1510; MD. CODE, FAMILY LAW § 4-512; and MD. RULE 16-1009.

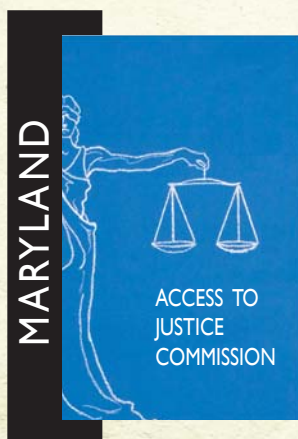
Court forms are available on the Maryland Judiciary's website at www.mdcourts.gov/courtforms.

Read Maryland's laws at www.mdcourts.gov/lawlib/researchtools/sourcesmdlaw.html.

Visit the People's Law Library of Maryland, an online legal resource, at www.peoples-law.org.

Visit any public law library in person. Call 410.260.1430 or find out more online at www.mdcourts.gov/lawlib.

Visit or call the Clerk's Office of the court that heard your case.



www.mdcourts.gov/mdatjc
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